Peace medals

Albertson, Fred T.

[Longbranch, WA]

1928

Longbranch, Wash.
Jan. 29-28

Am. Numismatic Society
Broadway & 155th St.
New York, N.Y.

Gentlemen:

Will very much appreciate all the information I can get concerning the 1st issue of Peace Medals.

I have one of the original silver 1789 that was buried with owner in days that was buried with owner in days pin fire weapons and would like to know if the press reports about the time this was dug up 33 yrs. ago were correct in stating there were only 4 or 5 of these ordered struck by the 1st Congress.

Also is there a record of the tribes & chiefs who received them?

I am forced to dispose of it & one of the larger dealers says "I owned one of them once & will buy yours if the price is in reason" and frankly, I don't know what to write him.

Please give me all the information you conveniently can - & I can't return the favor to you will pass one on to somebody.

Yours very truly, Fred T. Allstrom

8th Feb., 1928

Mr. F. T. Albertson,
Longbranch, Wash.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your letter concerning the peace medal, I would very much like to have you make a drawing or a rubbing of it as there are several varieties. Is it a large oval silver medal, or is it a round medal of about three inches? Upon knowing better what your medal is, we might be interested in the purchase of it. Have you had any offers for it and have you any idea of what you should get for it?

Very truly yours,

Curator

Longbranch, Wash.
Feb. 18-1928

Mr Howland Wood, Curator
Am. Numismatic Society
New York,

Dear Sir:

Here it is, one side nearly perfect the other eaten at by human body acids for nearly half of the century the other fellow had it, is pitted to almost nothing.

It is in the condition in which I found it.

Answering further believe I wrote you concerning my first attempt to learn it's value.

That & the comment of the librarian of Congress "The medal may be considered rare" is about all I have on it.

My direct & personal knowledge is limited to it's past 80 yrs. or thereabout. You doubtless know more about what it meant before that heart breaking drive across half the continent,

Perhaps in it's first 40 yrs. it made more actual history than was witnessed by all the "Buttons"

I wasn't there but the name of the chief who wore it can be proven if worth the effort.

If from description & photo it is a thing you want make a reasonable offer - "no foolin" - a fair valuation for this piece among collectors of these things and name the bank to which you wish it forwarded for inspection.

If not interested kindly return photo - the only one I have, and any further information I can get will, I again assure you be appreciated.

I thank you

Fred T. Albertson

27th Feb., 1928

Mr. Fred T. Albertson,
Longbranch,
Pierce Co., Wash.

Dear Sir:

Your favor with a photograph just at hand. Unfortunately for all of us, the medal you have is not the piece we are looking for. Those actually made in 1789 are large, oval silver medals. The medal you have has got a peculiar history. We have traced it back to the Indian Territory, where we know these were made by a half-breed Indian who sold and gave them in great numbers to Indian chiefs in the early 70's into the 80's and possibly later. We have never been able to find out exactly where he got the dies. The possibilities are that they are St. Louis dies made by Ellis, who made a number of Indian peace medals for the different fur companies in the 40's and 50's. The date 1789 simply means the first presidency of Washington, as this medal bears the head of Washington on the other side, and is not the date of the original medal. This can be easily told by the workmanship and style.

All of the medals we have seen are in hard pewter. We have heard of silver medals but we doubt their existence. Yours may possibly be silver; if so, I might make you an offer. We do not care for it in pewter as we have several.

Very truly yours,

Curator